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Law360 California

CALIFORNIA

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

LAW360 400

The Firms That Lost The Most Attorneys In 2018

Among the firms that saw their head counts shrink the most in 2018, the losses were indicative of an aggressive lateral market, a shifting business strategy or very little at all in terms of the firm's overall performance, depending on whom you ask.

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The Dangers Of BigLaw's Merger-Happy Growth Strategy

There are those who say large law firms can at times be like lemmings, playing a dangerous game of follow-the-leader with their peers. A record-breaking year for law firm mergers in 2018, which has driven drastic head count growth, is one example of that, some observers say.

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Identity Politics: How Firms Seal The Deal After A Merger

As regional firms join forces with large national firms, they must decide how important it is to maintain those identities. Ultimately, choices on everything from the firm's name to local office culture must ensure old clients aren't left behind.

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Some IP Boutiques Take Hit Amid Shifting Patent Landscape

Some of the nation's largest intellectual property boutiques saw their headcounts drop last year as a dwindling number of new patent complaints and an intense focus on cases at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board reshaped the patent landscape.

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TOP NEWS

Ex-Autonomy CFO Gets 5 Years For Fraud In Sale To HP

A California federal judge sentenced Autonomy Corp.'s former chief financial officer on Monday to five years in prison and $4 million in fines for orchestrating an accounting fraud scheme that led Hewlett-Packard to overpay for the British software company by billions.

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Monsanto Hit With $2B Verdict In 3rd Roundup Trial

A California jury found on Monday that Monsanto's Roundup likely caused a couple's cancer and awarded them a staggering $2.055 billion in damages, slapping the Bayer AG unit with a third consecutive Roundup trial loss.

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Edwards Wildman Botched Client's Daily Mail Suit, Jury Told

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Altshuler Berzon LLP
Arnold & Porter
BakerHostetler
Ballard Spahr
Bartlit Beck
Baum Hedlund
Blank Rome
Brinks Gilson & Lione
Carlsmith Ball
Carter Ledyard
Chimicles Law
Clark Hill
Cooley
Davis Polk
Davis Wright Tremaine
Debevoise & Plimpton
Dentons
Dickstein Shapiro
Duane Morris
Dworken & Bernstein
Edwards Wildman
Evans Fears
Finnegan
Fish & Richardson

Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP and its former attorney shirked their fiduciary duties in representing a onetime client in his privacy row against the Daily Mail tabloid, a California jury heard Monday during opening statements in a trial accusing the firm of failing to keep the client properly informed.
Read full article »

States Can't Be Sued In Other States' Courts, Justices Say

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday said the California Franchise Tax Board can't be sued in another state's court, handing a victory to the agency that had sought for years to end the practice on sovereign immunity grounds.
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Google To Pay $7.25M To Settle Pixel Speaker Defect Suit

Google has agreed to pay $7.25 million to settle claims in California federal court brought by a group of Pixel smartphone buyers that the phones were built with defective microphones and speakers.
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Disney Wins 'Pirates Of The Caribbean' Script Copyright Suit

Treasure maps, skeletons and mutinies are par for the course in pirate movies, a California federal judge said Monday while shooting down copyright infringement claims from screenwriters alleging that Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise copied their script.
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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL

High Court Won't Take Challenge To Ore. Fuel Standards

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday said it will not hear a challenge to Oregon's low-carbon fuel standards by energy and automotive trade groups, keeping in place a Ninth Circuit decision that rejected arguments claiming the rules inappropriately disfavored out-of-state fuel sources.
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Cities' Climate Suits Can't Proceed, Oil Cos. Tell 9th Circ.

Chevron Corp. told the Ninth Circuit that Oakland and San Francisco cannot use state-based claims to force it and several other oil giants to pay billions for alleged climate change-related infrastructure damages, arguing the case's dismissal was dictated by federal policy.
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INSURANCE

Magistrate Denies Lloyd's KO Bid In $6.3M Boxer Policy Suit

A former professional boxer has landed a hit on Lloyd's of London in a suit alleging the insurer used technicalities and tortured logic to deny a $6.3 million claim tied to a career-ending injury, as a California federal court refused to dismiss the suit.
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PRODUCT LIABILITY

Fitbit Class Attys Seek $7M Fees In Sleep-Tracker Deal

Class counsel for Fitbit customers who settled with the company over claims they paid extra for fitness devices with a sleep-tracking function that didn't work as advertised have asked a California federal judge for more than $7 million in attorney fees for years of legal work.
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PERSONAL INJURY & MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Tesla, Subcontractor Settle Janitor's Injury Suit For $13M

Foley & Lardner
Fox Rothschild
Gibson Dunn
Glancy Prongay
Goldman Ismail
Goodwin
Greenberg Traurig
Harness Dickey
Hinshaw & Culbertson
Holland & Knight
Hunton Andrews Kurth
Husch Blackwell
Jenner & Block
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Katten Muchin
Keker Van Nest & Peters
Kellogg Hansen
Kessler Topaz
King & Spalding
Knobbe Martens
Kohn Swift
Latham & Watkins
Lathrop Gage
Law Office of James Tam
Law Offices of Paul Whitfield
LeClairRyan
LegalForce RAPC Worldwide
Mayer Brown
McDonald Carano
Mei & Mark
Morrison & Foerster
Munger Tolles
Nelson Mullins
O'Melveny & Myers
Panish Shea
Parris Law Firm
Paul Weiss
Perkins Coie
Raley & Bowick
Reed Smith
Robbins Geller
Ropers Majeski
Sandler Reiff
Schwegman Lundberg
Sher Edling
Sidley Austin
Simpson Thacher
Skadden
Squire Patton Boggs
Stern & Kilcullen
Strasburger & Price
Susman Godfrey

Tesla Inc. and a subcontractor have agreed to pay $13 million to settle a suit brought by a janitor who claims she was pinned between two cars in a tragic accident at a California warehouse, just days before a trial was set to begin in state court.

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PRIVACY & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Facebook Says Korean App Maker Misused User Data

Facebook has hit a South Korean data analytics company with a suit accusing the app maker of illegally using users' data to create and sell advertising and marketing analytics models.

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Delta Tries To Ditch Flyer's Data Breach Suit

Delta flyers' tickets are their contracts and nowhere on those tickets does it state an enforceable privacy policy, the airline argued Monday in its bid to escape a suit over a massive 2017 data breach that exposed online customers' personal information.

Read full article »

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

LegalZoom Loses Bid To Ax Rival's TM Suit A 2nd Time

A California federal judge on Monday refused to nix for the second time a trademark dispute between rival trademark search services over the name "Trademarkia," saying the initial problems with the suit had been fixed and it should now proceed.

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Vape Co.'s Patent Infringement Costs It $864K

A Los Angeles federal jury has awarded vape company Lubby Holdings LLC nearly $864,000 over infringement of a patent for a vaporizer.

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No Health Supplement IP Infringement, Fed. Circ. Affirms

The Federal Circuit on Monday upheld decisions from California and Texas federal courts finding that Xiamen Kingdomway Group Co., Pacific Rainbow International Inc. and Zhejiang Medicine Co. didn't infringe a Kaneka Corp. health supplement patent.

Read full article »

SECURITIES & WHITE COLLAR

Qualcomm Fights To Toss Suit Over Blocked Broadcom Deal

Qualcomm Inc. urged a California federal court on Friday to throw out a proposed shareholder class action accusing it of tanking rival Broadcom Ltd.'s $117 billion acquisition bid by concealing a government investigation into the deal, arguing investors failed to identify any fraudulent statements made by the mobile tech giant.

Read full article »

Glancy Prongay Seeks $1.2M Fees In K12 Charter School Deal

Glancy Prongay & Murray asked a California federal judge to approve $1.2 million in attorney fees for its negotiation of a $3.5 million settlement in a shareholder suit claiming online charter school operator K12 Inc. hid its practice of inflating attendance numbers and success rates.

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GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Supreme Court Passes On Raytheon FCA Suit

Valle Makoff
Vogrin & Frimet
White & Case
WilmerHale
Wilson Sonsini
Winstead PC
Winston & Strawn
Womble Bond Dickinson

COMPANIES

Altman Weil Inc.
American Cancer Society Inc.
American Electric Power Co. Inc.
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Trucking Associations Inc.
Apple Inc.
Autonomy Corp.
BP p.l.c.
Bayer AG
Bicycle Therapeutics Ltd.
Blaqwell Inc.
Broadcom Ltd.
CRST International Inc.
Cantor Fitzgerald
Charter Communications Inc.
Chevron Corp.
Citigroup Inc.
Colorado Bar Association
ConocoPhillips Co.
Delaware State Bar Association
Delta Air Lines Inc.
Experian
Exxon Mobil Corp.
Facebook
Fitbit Inc.
General Motors
Goldman Sachs Group Inc.
Google Inc.
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Jefferies Financial Group Inc.
K12 Inc.
Kraft Foods Inc.
LegalZoom.com Inc.
Major Lindsey & Africa
Monsanto Co.
NFL Enterprises LLC
New York University
NextEra Energy Inc.
Nintendo Co. Ltd.
Piper Jaffray Companies

The Supreme Court declined Monday to review the Ninth Circuit's refusal to revive a long-running suit accusing Raytheon of defrauding the government on a satellite sensor deal in violation of the False Claims Act.

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VENTURE CAPITAL

3 Biotech Firms Prime IPOs That Could Raise $285M Total

Three venture-backed biotechnology companies launched plans Monday for initial public offerings that could raise $285 million combined, involving the work of five law firms, as health care-related companies continue to dominate this year's IPO market.

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PEOPLE

White & Case Nabs Gibson Dunn Alum In Silicon Valley

White & Case LLP has announced that the newest partner in its Silicon Valley office is a former Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP attorney who specializes in securities and corporate governance, representing the latest addition to a growing capital markets team.

Read full article »

Silicon Valley GC Takes Helm At Calif. Finance Regulator

The former general counsel and chief compliance officer at startup microloan company Affirm Inc. left the fintech community in Silicon Valley on Monday to regulate securities and banks registered in the state of California.

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EXPERT ANALYSIS

What's At Stake In Battle Over TCPA Constitutionality

As courts across the country grapple with whether the Telephone Consumer Protection Act passes First Amendment scrutiny, the eventual outcome is likely to permanently shift the contours of free speech jurisprudence, one way or another, say Eric Troutman and Petrina McDaniel of Squire Patton Boggs.

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Series

Judging A Book: Wood Reviews 'The Making Of A Justice'

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens' new book, "The Making of a Justice," is required reading for anyone interested in 20th and 21st century America, says Seventh Circuit Chief Judge Diane Wood.

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LEGAL INDUSTRY

Titan Of The Plaintiffs Bar: Panish Shea's Brian Panish

When Rex Parris met Brian Panish, the Southern California attorney thought his co-counsel was the most arrogant man he had ever met. But Parris soon learned his first impression of the formidable Panish Shea & Boyle LLP litigator was way off the mark.

Read full article »

Law Firm Revenue Up, Demand Down In Q1

In the first quarter of the year, the legal industry enjoyed strong revenue growth despite a slight dip in demand, according to a survey of law firms conducted by Citi Private Bank's Law Firm Group, the key findings of which were made public on Monday.

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Breyer Says Court Conservatives Aren't Respecting Precedent

Planned Parenthood Federation
Platinum Partners LP
QUALCOMM Inc.
ROC Nation LLC
Raytheon Co.
Renaissance Capital
Royal Dutch Shell PLC
Southern California Gas Co.
Tesla Inc.
The Kraft Heinz Foods Co.
The Walt Disney Co.
Twitter Inc.
UnitedLex Corp.
Washington Mutual Inc.
Zappos.com Inc.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

California Attorney General's Office
California Department of Business Oversight
California Franchise Tax Board
Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Federal Communications Commission
Federal Election Commission
Health Canada
Illinois Supreme Court
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Native Village of Kivalina
Securities and Exchange Commission
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Solicitors Regulation Authority
U.S. Attorney's Office
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Department of Transportation
U.S. Department of the Treasury
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Supreme Court

An alarmed Justice Stephen Breyer wondered Monday "which cases the Court will overrule next" after the U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority overturned yet another long-standing precedent it disagreed with, this time in a tax case.

Read full article »

Rosenstein Invokes Mueller In Baltimore Law Grad Speech

In his first public remarks since leaving the U.S. Justice Department, Rod Rosenstein quoted special counsel Robert Mueller in a speech Monday to law school graduates in Baltimore and cautioned them about the temptation to "disregard principles."

Read full article »

Skadden Partner Poised To Lead Del. Corporation Law Panel

Veteran Skadden mergers and acquisitions partner Allison L. Land said she views it as an honor to be named vice chair of the Delaware State Bar Association's Corporation Law Council, likely positioning her as the first woman to chair the influential body two years from now.

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Weinstein Atty Drops Out, Citing Harvard Teaching Conflict

A New York court has approved Harvard professor Ronald Sullivan's withdrawal from the trial team representing Harvey Weinstein on rape charges this fall, a move Sullivan attributed to an "unresolvable conflict" with his fall classes after the trial was moved to September.

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Colo. Bar Mourns Loss Of State's First Black Federal Judge

U.S. District Judge Wiley Y. Daniel, the first African American to serve as a federal judge in Colorado, has died at age 72, prompting an outpouring of sympathy and praise for his legacy from Colorado officials and members of the state's legal community.

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Interview

15 Minutes With Zappos' Chief Legal Counsel

Brandon Hollis, who leads the legal department at online shoe and clothing retailer Zappos, said one frustration of in-house counsel is when law firms provide a "safe" answer that ultimately doesn't help achieve business objectives, rather than taking thoughtful, smart risks with practical, business-minded advice.

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Hogan Lovells - Patent Agent (San Francisco)
Hogan Lovells US LLP
San Francisco, California

Staff Attorney, Community-Based Initiatives
Earthjustice

Patent Scientist - Chemistry
Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP
San Diego, California

Commercial Litigation Associate
Duane Morris LLP
San Francisco, California

Intellectual Property Associate
Shay Glenn LLP
San Mateo, California

Hogan Lovells - EE/CS IP Litigation Associate, Junior
Hogan Lovells
San Francisco/Silicon Valley, California

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Los Angles , California

Litigator
Company Confidential
San Diego, California

Labor & Employment Associate - (1+ yrs Exp.)
Jones Day
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